

CPPS: A Friend with UNANIMA INTERNATIONAL

In Spring of 2020, Sr. Rosemary Russell initiated a “Friend” membership level with UNANIMA International. After Sr. Rosemary’s death, Sr. Toni Temporiti and Sr. Lucy Meissen became the CPPS community representatives to this NGO. They have been invited to attend the annual meeting in New York.

UNANIMA International had its beginning at LCWR in 2000, when UI’s founder invited any interested religious congregations to form a coalition NGO to advocate at the United Nations on behalf of women and children. In July of 2005, it received special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Currently, UI represents 23 Congregations of Women Religious, comprising 25,000 people in 85 countries.

UNANIMA International focuses particularly on homelessness and its root causes throughout the world, a focus fitting well with our community’s bold action to advocate for a just and comprehensive immigration and refugee policy reform. This focus also provides a forum for our initiative against human trafficking since homelessness has been identified as a root cause of human trafficking.

Last year, via zoom, Sr. Lucy and Sr. Toni gave a 7-minute power point introduction about our community to UNAMINA at its annual meeting. It included a brief history of our community and a timeline of CPPS interest and connection to organizations at the UN, including our former membership in Partnership for Global Justice.

In recent months, thousands of people have lost their homes due to floods, cyclones, hurricanes and continued war---not only in Ukraine and Sudan but in many other countries of the world. Climate change causes the destruction of agricultural and fishing areas, forcing people to leave their homes and find other ways of surviving. The number of displaced persons grows with each new disaster.

In September 2023, Lucy and Toni will attend UNANIMA’s annual meeting in person and explore concrete ways for our community to connect and benefit from our Friend-level membership with UI.

We will continue to search for ways that we as Sisters of the Most Precious Blood can be a part of the UI mission to end poverty and respect every person's human right to food, water, housing, education, and work.

To familiarize yourself with the origin, members and programs of UNANIMA, visit the UNANIMA International website at <https://unanima-international.org/> The website provides the following statement of one of its most recent works:

“Advocating specifically for Women and Children/ Girls at the international level, UNANIMA International has recently undertaken a significant Research Project into Family Homelessness and Trauma. UNANIMA International’s Research is among the first of its kind in this thematic area to happen at the international level. Working with our major partners, Sophia Housing, Dublin and New York University (NYU), as well as various smaller partners and contributors, UNANIMA International is collecting qualitative and quantitative data that will be used to further advocate for people experiencing Homelessness and Displacement.

“It is hoped that this research and advocacy will promote a paradigm shift where Homelessness and Displacement are seen not as a personal failure but rather the structural failure and Human Rights violation that they are.

“As advocates for individuals and families experiencing Homelessness and Displacement, UNANIMA International is trying to bring the voices of women and children from around the world to the global stage.

“Following the mantra ‘Don’t talk about us, without us’ UNANIMA International has the opportunity to act as a bridge that enables people experiencing these issues at the local level to be heard by those who have a say at the International and National level. In order to achieve this, we are working with our grassroots members and partners globally to bring 1,000 voices to the UN.

As well as individuals with a lived experience we hope to collate inputs from people working as service providers, in policy, and gather the experiences and perceptions of the issues from the wider community. UNANIMA International is also a founding member of the Working Group to End Homelessness.”

Unanima International provides our community with a voice at the United Nations. We appreciate the leadership it provides to be at significant events such as the COP23, the Status of Women and Girls conference, the international meetings concerning clean water, and especially the focus on the plight of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who make up the homeless population in the world.

Last week, (6/20/23) the United Nations Refugee Agency reported that 108.4 million people were forced to flee their homes in 2022 due to war, persecution, human rights abuses, and other events. That is the highest number on record, and more than double the number from a decade ago.

View a video about UNANIMA International [here](#).

How We Help

We advocate on behalf of women and children experiencing extreme poverty and homelessness/ displacement, migrants and refugees, victims of human trafficking, and environmental issues at the United Nations, with the aim to educate and influence policymakers at the global level. We work to occupy spaces of power on behalf of those who can't be present, in order to infuse the conversation with the perspectives, experiences, and needs that would otherwise be absent.



View a video about UNANIMA International [here](#)